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Glen Eden hall: An asset or white elephant?

The future of the Glen Eden Town Hall is still undecided following last week's council meeting.



Dr Moody ... rate-payers don't care.

In its latest move, the council decided to ask the present manager of the town hall, Mr P. Tuoro, to submit his proposals on what should be done to the building.

Mr N.R. Monteith said he recently had a lengthy discussion with Mr Tuoro, "a progressive man who feels that theatres are coming back into their own."

Mr Monteith said Mr Tuoro wished to modernize the front of the cinema and that he had received a quote of \$1500 to do the work. He also said that he did not require the supper room and that he was prepared to pay a high rental to the council.

Mr Monteith said he had strong views on the matter.

"I think that the council would be wasting its time spending the \$7000 allowed for the upgrading of the hall in the estimates. It would just be throwing good money after bad making a hall out of the building. I maintain it still makes a reasonable sort of theatre," he said.

Social service

Mr Berg agreed.

"The \$7000 should be held as there does not appear to be any desire on the part of residents for an upgrading of the hall. At least the cinema does perform a social service in the area," he said.

On the other hand, Mr J.C. Carr said he was very much in favour of Glen Eden having a hall which all rate-payers could use.

"At present, the rate-payers are getting virtually no use out of the hall at all, he said. "The council's duty is to provide a hall for them. The cinema is all right up to a point, but it is not greatly patronized."

Mr Carr said the worst thing that could happen would be for the hall to be operated on a lease in the future. "Then it would be completely lost to the rate-payers in every shape and form," he added.

Glen Eden lost a lot of clubs when the town hall was tied up with a lease," said Mr Carr. "We cannot allow this to go on."

Supporting Mr Carr, Mr R. Thompson said the council had now been presented with an opportunity to create a community hall which could bring clubs back into the district.

Mrs J. Clews: \$7000 would not bring any more people back.

The Mayor, Dr H.E.A. Moody, said the lack of interest shown by ratepayers showed that they obviously did not care about the future of the hall.

"It will be the ratepayers' fault entirely if they don't have a hall," he said.

On the subject of the clubs



Mr Monteith ... throwing good money after bad.

which had been forced to disband or leave the district. Dr Moody queried the interest they had shown over the upgrading proposals.

"Maybe they will show an interest when they find out they still have nothing," he concluded.

Mr Tuoro's proposals will be heard at the next council meeting.

Western header.